

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dixon et al.  
Appl. No.: PCT/EP00/02177  
Filed: March 8, 2000  
Title: FRIED PET TREATS  
Art Unit: Unknown  
Examiner: Unknown  
Docket No.: 112701-317

#4/A  
8F  
1/7/02

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 14-17, 20-24 and 27 as follows:

A<sup>1</sup> 1. (Once Amended) A pet treat comprising  
a sealed container; and  
at least one piece of a formulated food product in the container, the piece comprising a  
fried body of a thermally gelled matrix containing protein and starch and having a moisture  
content of at least 25% by weight.

A<sup>2</sup> 4. (Once Amended) A pet treat according to claim 1 including a preservative.  
  
5. (Once Amended) A retorted, pet treat comprising  
a retortable, sealed container; and  
at least one piece of a formulated food product in the container, the piece comprising a  
fried body of a thermally gelled matrix containing protein and starch and having a moisture  
content of above 30% by weight.

A<sup>3</sup> 7. (Once Amended) A pet treat according to claim 5 in which the fried body of  
the piece comprises layers of a thermally gelled matrix containing the protein and the starch.

8. (Once Amended) A pet treat comprising a sealed container and at least one  
piece of a formulated food product and a preservative in the container, the piece comprising a  
fried body of a thermally gelled matrix containing protein and starch and having a moisture  
content of at least 25% by weight.